



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Representatives Jeffrey Armstrong, Joseph Baril, Lori Bartinik, Genevieve Cerf, Wayne Chiapperini, Michael Collins, Joseph delaCruz, Luanne DeMatto, Debra Dickey, Susan Dowling, Shirley Dunbar-Rose, George Edwards Jr, Suzanne Elliot, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Barbara Hoelck, Gordon Lange, David Miner, Nancy Mitchell, Deborah Monteiro, Matt Morton, Scott Newsome, Nora Patterson, Darcy Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Rita Schmidt,, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, George Swift, Patricia Thunberg, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, John Waller and Elizabeth Weil.

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. 25 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Rep. Armstrong, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Collins, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Dickey, Rep. Dowling, Rep. Dunbar-Rose, Rep. Elliot, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hoelck, Rep. Lange, Rep. Miner, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. M. Morton, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Power, Rep. Schmidt, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Vivirito and Rep. Weil

Members Absent: Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chiapperini, Rep. delaCruz, Rep. Edwards, Jr., Rep. Garcia, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swift, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Waller, II

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Moderator requested a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Monteiro.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2004

A motion to approve the Minutes of June 9, 2004 was made by Rep. Morton, seconded by Rep. Miner. The motion carried unanimously.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Dunbar-Rose reported that Rep. Walker is absent due to family illness, and Reps. Svencer, Thunberg and Waller called and will not be attending.

She announced that a resignation from Rep. Norbert Fay was received on July 12, 2004.

The Moderator stated that the following three ordinances are referred to the RTM Finance Committee with a due date of August 11, 2004.

2004-0223 Adoption of an Ordinance to Dissolve the First Taxing District

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on August 11, 2004. The motion carried.

Motion to veto is the only appropriate action.

2004-0224 Adoption of an Ordinance to Dissolve the Second Taxing District

carried.

Motion to veto is the only appropriate action.

2004-0225

Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Ledge Light Health District Ordinance

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on August 11, 2004. The motion carried.

Motion to veto is the only appropriate action.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Lee Vincent explained that reason there is no financial report this month is that the Finance Department will not issue a financial statement until August when pre-audit balances have been completed.

2. Monthly briefing

Mr. Vincent invited everyone to attend the Police Department swearing in ceremony on July 20, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. This ceremony will include the promotion of Captain Kelly Fogg to Assistant Chief and two new patrol officers, at which Rep. Miner's son David will join the police force. Recognition for Rep. Vivirito as he retires as a Supernumerary Officer and Sergeant Michael Lewin from the Police Department.

He reviewed the report that was requested by Rep. Walker last month on Town Attorney costs. He reported that the costs for the time period from November 2003 through May 2004 increased by 23% over the same period in FYE 2003. This increase covers all general legal work, including work requested by staff, boards and commissions, and \$24,840 for advice and research of the legal status of Groton Long Point. He stated that an itemized billing record is available upon request.

Rep. DeMatto requested clarification on the approval of usage of the Town Attorney and who is authorized to contact him.

Mr. Vincent stated that Town Councilors, Board and Commission members and RTM Members are provided access to the Town Attorney for questions and opinions.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger recognized Recreation Superintendent Jerry Lokken as chairman of the Parade Committee and cited the success of the Fourth of July Parade. Awards will be presented at the Town Council meeting on July 20.

Rep. DeMatto raised concerns about the Mystic Drawbridge.

The Town Manager explained the recent equipment failure and the timetable for repairs. He stated that the complete renovation of the bridge is spread out over several years as funding is available.

Rep. Stein announced that Rep. Weil served as a judge for the Fourth of July Parade at the last minute when Cheryl MacDonald was unable to attend.

The Moderator announced that Citizenship Day will be held September 20, 2004. Volunteers are needed and she asked that anyone interested contact the Town Clerk.

Rep. Lange left the meeting at this time.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Town Council - Rep. Cerf

No meeting, no report.

2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

3. Town Council/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson

Rep. Patterson presented a brief summary of the June 23, 2004 meeting. Discussions at that meeting included Eastern Point School repairs and safety, school based health clinics and joint health insurance for Board of Education and Town employees. An informational meeting will be

held on September 22, 2004 between the Town and the Board of Education.

4. Permanent School Building Committee - Rep. Miner

Rep. Miner reported the first meeting of the committee was May 26, 2004. The committee has established the rules of the committee and discussed the overview of the project. They are discussing the roles of the Town Council, Board of Education, Town staff and the committee. The committee will be meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. He stated the final appointments should be approved at the July 20 Town Council meeting. This will allow the committee to move forward with Phase One of the School Design Project.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Schmidt

Chairman Schmidt read the minutes of the July 14, 2004 meeting (see attached minutes). The committee recommends to the full RTM that the RTM consider a method to restore \$10,000 to Account 1064 for maintenance.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Dowling and so voted unanimously.

2004-0175 RTM Request for Restoration of Funds to Account 1064

RTM Request for Restoration of Funds to Account 1064 (Parks & Recreation)

Discussed

Rep. DeMatto asked for clarification of the two methods for restoring funds to Account 1064.

Rep. Schmidt explained the methods. The first method is the Power of Initiative granted by Town Charter section 3.7, and the second is a request to the Town Council to consider an additional appropriation of \$10,000 to Account 1064.

Rep. Vivirito expressed concern that any action at this time would be setting a precedent and would not be in the best interest of the Town. He suggested that if needed, Parks and Recreation could request a fourth quarter transfer next spring.

Rep. Granatosky explained for the record that the request was not from the Director of Parks and Recreation but resulted from committee recommendations during the annual budget review by the RTM. The Moderator actually made the referral to the RTM Finance Committee for review.

No action was taken on this item.

2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Dickey

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Newsome

No meeting, no report.

4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman DeMatto

No meeting, no report.

5. RECREATION

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman delaCruz

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito

No meeting, no report.

7. PUBLIC WORKS**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Collins**

No meeting, no report.

8. RULES & PROCEDURES**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Weil**

No meeting, no report.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Granatosky encouraged members to voice their concerns about electronic balloting to their local representatives.

Rep. DeMatto asked for clarification on the negotiated health insurance of Town and Board of Education employees.

The Town Manager explained the current process of jointly soliciting bids and the administrative procedures. He stated that the current discussions are about administrative differences.

Differences include the presentation in the budget; the assumptions used for budgeting since the Town is self-insured; the method of funding; and the actual payment into the fund.

2004-0242 Impact of Health Insurance & Retirement Costs on Future Budgets

Impact of Health Insurance and Retirement Costs on Future Budgets

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on September 8, 2004. The motion carried.

Rep. Armstrong requested a referral to the Finance Committee to investigate the Town's future contractual obligations for employees' health insurance and retirement costs and to provide information about the long term impact on the annual budget.

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Rep. Steinfeld, seconded by Rep. Miner. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk